Railways, the differential being Rs. 50,000 (approx.) per wagon in 1988-89 with respect to the earlier base prices duly escalated.

Meetings of ED Employees' Unions

2835. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of meetings held with the union representing the ED employees since August, 1987;

(b) what are the details of the problems solved in these meetings;

(c) what is the position regarding the permanancy and review of ED officials which was under consideration of Government;

(d) whether the proposal to cover ED employees under Group Insurance Scheme has been accepted by Government, if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(e) whether periodical meetings at All India level are being held with the service unions, if not why, when is the next meeting proposed to be held to sort out the present problems; and

(f) what are the present problems of ED employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (*SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO*): (a) In all 7 meetings have been held with the various Federations/Unions representing ED Employees since August, 1987.

(b) The details of problems of ED Employees solved in the meetings held with the various Federations/Unions since August, 1987 are indicated in the enclosed statement.

(c) ED employees who have put in more than 3 years of service cannot be removed or dismissed without following the prescribed procedure under P & T Extra Departmental Agents (Conduct and Service) Rules, 1964 and to this extent they have security of employment. E.D. employees are not to be made permanent in other sense.

(d) The proposal to cover E.D. employees under Group Insurance Scheme is under examination with the Actuary.

(e) Yes, Sir. Only some of the Non-federated Unions/Associations have submitted the items for inclusion in the agenda which are being processed and the next periodical meeting of these Unions/Associations would be held shortly. National Federation of Postal Employees (NFPE) and Federation of National Postal Organisations (FNPO) have not submitted any item for inclusion in the agenda of the periodical meeting. Therefore, the question of holding periodical meeting of these Federations does not arise.

(f) The main demand of ED employees is for regularisation of their services and making them eligible for the benefits of regular departmental employees. As ED employees are part-time employees of the Department and the ED System is to cater to the needs of postal services where employment of full time regular departmental employees is not justified, it is not possible to accede to this demand.

Statement

1. ABOLITION OF CATEGORIES OF E. D. POSTS:

It was agreed that the existing incumbents would continue till they are absorbed.

2. RE-INSTATEMENT OF SERVICE OF E. D. EMPLOYEES DISCHARGED FROM SERVICE:

It was decided that EDAs whose posts are not justified would be retained as surplus till alternative posts become available for them.

3. CONSTITUTION OF INTERNAL E.D. COMMITTEE:

It was agreed to constitute an internal ED Committee and the same was constituted.

4. NON-EMPLOYMENT OR EMPLOYMENT IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES ONLY OF EDAS IN RMS:

A provision has been made for absorption of ED Agents in Group 'D' posts irrespective of the fact whether they are employed in Postal Wing or RMS.

Providing of telex services in Andhra Pradesh

2836. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to provide telex services in the major towns of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the towns where such facilities are proposed to be provided in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of big towns including district headquarters and other important towns have already got telex services. It is proposed to extend the telex facilities to the following 4 district headquarters in the near future:

1. Khammam.
2. Machilipatnam.
3. Nalgonda and
4. Chittore.

Regularisation of the Services at ED Mailmen in Delhi Circle

2837. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ED mailmen working in Delhi Circle are detained beyond 5 hours and are paid pro rata wages for the additional work; and

(b) whether Government propose to regularise the services of ED mailmen in Delhi Circle as per rules; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Extra Departmental employees are part-time employees and are generally engaged for a period ranging from 2 to 5 hours a day. In Delhi Circle when exigencies of service require, Extra Departmental employees outside their working hours are engaged as casual labourers. They are paid for additional work applicable to Casual labourers on hourly rate basis.

(b) Extra Departmental employees are not regularised as a matter of course. However, they are eligible for absorption in departmental posts of Group—'D' and Mail Guards by way of examination to the extent of available vacancies as per recruitment rules. There is no other way of regularisation of Extra Departmental employees.

Emoluments of ED Employees

2838. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ED Post Offices opened during each of the last three years and so far in the current year;

(b) what is the category-wise number of ED employees recruited during the same period;

(c) whether pensioners/school teachers are still being appointed as ED employees; if so, what is the number of such employees as on 31st December, 1988;

(d) whether the emoluments of existing ED employees will be changed by the introduction of Panchayat Dak Sewak Scheme; if so, by how much; and